



# THE CHURCH CANDLE

## SEPTEMBER 2023

A Newsletter of the Sayre Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

### FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY — SEPTEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>

On the first Sunday of the month, our church family observes Food Pantry Sunday. Each family is asked to bring a non-perishable food item which will be given to the “Feed My Sheep” Food Pantry at the Athens United Methodist Church. In August, 83 food items were delivered. *Thank you* to Oliver McKeithan and Benjamin Fiske for taking the food to the Methodist church.

The Athens Methodist Church responded with this note: “Thank you for your recent donation of food to our Feed My Sheep Food Pantry. Summer has been busy with a record 286 individuals served in July! We so appreciate you.” THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU — Numbers 6:24

### SEED FAITH CIRCLE ...

All women of the church are invited to a social evening on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Every third Tuesday of the month, a group gathers at a local restaurant to share a meal and fellowship.

This month, the group will go to The Riverstone Inn, 47 Leisure Drive in Towanda. If you would like to carpool to the restaurant, meet in the church parking lot at 5:30 p.m. Otherwise, meet us at the restaurant at 6:00 p.m. If you plan to go, please contact Wendy McKeithan at 570-596-4008.

### PLEASE NOTE:

**NO** Board Meeting in September.



### NOTES from the MUSIC MINISTRY ... *THANK YOU*

to all who provided special music for our Sunday worship services. If you would like to lend your musical talents to a Sunday worship service, please let Pastor Paula know.

### Women’s spiritual & leadership retreat

— **Where Friends Gather ...** (hosted by United Christian Church DOC) Camp Laurelview, Rockwood, PA — Friday to Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>

The weekend will include:

- \* Great food, fun, and fellowship
- \* Renewing old friendships and creating new ones
- \* Keynote speaker moments and workshops on our theme "Where Friends Meet" (Eccl 4:9-10, Phil 2:4, 1 Thess 5:11)
- \* Crafts & Raffle Baskets
- \* Meaningful worship
- \* A return to Camp Laurelview, celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> year of camp ministry

We hope the women of Sayre Christian Church will join us! (See the Poster in Matthew’s Place on the Bulletin Board)

Shalom, Pastor Amorÿ

### GIVING REPORT FOR July ...

The following income for our church came from the weekly offering on Sunday and payments from the groups who use our building weekly:

For Current Expenses .....	\$5,960.00
Designated .....	\$4,133.00
World Outreach .....	\$ 108.00
Local Outreach .....	\$ 208.00
Building Fund .....	\$1,457.14



## PASTOR PAULA’S PAGE

Dear Church,

September seems always to be a busy time; vacations are on-going for those of us who try to avoid the ‘summer’ crowds and as a church we are building up to a busy liturgical season with the approach to Advent. You might say we are in the advent of Advent season. I have some plans for September that I can share with you.

I want to set aside Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> as “Back to Church Sunday” and have a special liturgy prepared for that day. That is the date that the 9:15 a.m. Sunday School bible study will resume. I would like to start our Wednesday bible study on September 13<sup>th</sup> with a study on “The Women of the Bible – Old Testament.” I assume the same women will attend and have ordered books accordingly, however if you have not attended our Wednesday group and would like to start let me know so books can be ordered.

Notes regarding the church office. I will be at a peer mentoring group in Lexington, KY during the week of September 18<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The church office will close on the 18<sup>th</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Our church secretary / bookkeeper is on vacation from the 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>. I have a procedure scheduled for the 27<sup>th</sup> so the office is closed on that date and probably the 28<sup>th</sup>. Rest assured your needs will be accommodated and we will have bulletins available as usual. Working for the Lord does not stop!

On a good note – the Southern Gospel Quartet, Common Bond, will be here on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> for a concert at 7:00 p.m. Please come and enjoy their musical ministry, showing them some Sayre Christian Church hospitality.

Let me leave you with this prayer from Cameron Trimble. “May you trust the Great Spirit who has loved you, loves you now, and will always love you, to guide your steps in these unfolding days. AMEN”

Blessings, Pastor Paula

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### SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

ELDER: To Be Determined / STEWARDS: Melanie Setzer and Sue Hurd

### Elders / Deacon Meeting ...

Elder and Deacons will resume meeting on the first Tuesday of the month (September 5<sup>th</sup>) at 3:00 p.m. Let me say a word about Elders and Deacons in our church – these are the ones doing the Lord’s work for this congregation. They give of themselves in visiting the sick or those who are homebound. They serve not only at the table but also in other capacities, as stewards or those who fill the candelabra candles. Being an Elder or Deacon is a spiritual adventure, it is a calling – you are God’s messengers, attending to the details in everyday worship that make our services special. You also attend to the spiritual needs of the congregation – noticing who might need special prayer or who needs Pastoral Care and bringing that information to your Pastor. That’s what our meetings are about – asking the hard questions and discerning what more this church can do for God.

Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> is set aside as “Back to Church Sunday” for this congregation, I hope you can invite those who have taken the summer off back to church. On that day we will do something special for our Deacons and Elders.

## Sound the Trumpets: Unmuted Witness

### Uncommon Love: United Service

*Numbers 10:4-7*



The **Special Offering for the Reconciliation Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)** will be received on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> during the worship service. The Reconciliation Ministry is an invaluable part of our church as we strive to faithfully follow Jesus Christ. When we encounter the perils of systemic racism, we sound the alarms so that we may be the hands and feet of Christ in the face of racial inequity and injustice. Just like the camps of the east and south in Israel, called together at the sound of the trumpets in the book of Numbers, Disciples are called together as an anti-racist and pro-reconciling faith movement.

*If only one (trumpet) is sounded, the leaders — the heads of the clans of Israel — are to assemble before you. When a trumpet blast is sounded, the tribes camping on the east are to set out. At the sounding of the second blast, the camps on the south are to set out. The blast will be the signal for setting out. Numbers 10:4-6*

Your generous giving to our shared ministry of Reconciliation, allows us to shine the light of Christ's uncommon love and to advocate for justice through our united service and ministry of reconciliation. Thank you for your gifts to the Reconciliation Ministry.

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### Donations Needed for Eldercare Ministry of The Bridge ...

Our church helps to supply the Athens Healthcare and Rehab Center with personal hygiene items.

The following items are needed:

Liquid hand soap, disposable razors, body wash, shampoo, conditioner and denture cleaner.

There is a basket located by the table at the front entrance for your donations. Or, you may send a cash donation to: The Bridge, PO Box 202, Sayre PA 18840; designate "Eldercare."

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## COMMON BOND QUARTET IN CONCERT ...

Please join us for the Common Bond Quartet on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. here at the Sayre Christian Church.

The group began in 2009 with four friends who loved Southern Gospel Quartet music. In the past ten years, Common Bond has twice been nominated as a 'New Horizon Group' of the year and have had least ten songs make their way up on the Singing News Gospel Music charts. God has extended their 'borders' to having sung in churches from Canada to Florida; and Virginia to Oklahoma — and in most states in between. When they started the quartet, their prayer was that God would lead them and open doors for them. Well, He has ... and Common Bond just keeps walking through those open doors.

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### INFORMATION FROM THE BRIDGE FAITH & FINANCES

**Learn how to manage your finances God's way.**

The Bridge will be offering *Faith & Finances* starting September 21<sup>st</sup> to May 16<sup>th</sup> during the 2023-2024 school year. The 12 week session will be offered with the Valley MOMS group at the Athens Wesleyan Church from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Each session includes breakfast followed by a 90 minute session. The cost is only \$15/individual or couple and is refundable with successful completion of the course. Contact Marion at 570-423-6351 or [FaihandFinances@thevalleybridge.org](mailto:FaihandFinances@thevalleybridge.org) to sign up or for more information.

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The **Cookbook** is in the production stage. The name will be:

*"Gathered Around the Table: Delectable Dishes from the East Central District of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)"*

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**HAPPY  
SEPTEMBER  
BIRTHDAYS!**

- 7 — Amy Whyte
- 10 — Marlene Enlow
- 11 — Terry Hunsinger
- 21 — Roman Rosh
- 23 — Roger MacDowall
- 28 — Krystle Valentine
- 30 — Grace Rava



**HAPPY SEPTEMBER  
ANNIVERSARIES**

- 5 — Bill and Amy Whyte
- 6 — Bill and Mary Flottesch
- 14 — Roman and Carol Rosh
- 28 — Brian and Tiffany Wendela

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**CELEBRATION SUNDAY!**

*Celebration Sunday!* will be observed on September 24<sup>th</sup>. All those who have a birthday or anniversary during this month will be recognized. Afterwards, refreshments will be available in Matthew's Place. Bring a favorite snack or dessert to share. Please stay for the celebration!

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**LET US PRAY**

- Ric Rava
- Don and Donna Johnson
- Mike Spencer
- Jim Allen
- Our Friends in Nursing Homes



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**CONDOLENCES** to family and friends of ... **Mary Ann Musto**, who passed away on August 1<sup>st</sup>. While in the Valley she was a Stephen Minister. She is the wife of Dr. Patrick Musto. If you would like to send a card, his address is: 1108 Inverness Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32092.

**Arlene Learn**, who passed away on August 7<sup>th</sup>. Arlene is Kathy Rava's mother.

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**OPERATION  
CHRISTMAS CHILD**

For over twenty years, Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization, has coordinated Operation Christmas Child. Individuals are asked to fill a shoebox with various items (school supplies, hygiene items, toys, etc.) for a boy or girl, 2 — 14 years of age. These boxes are sent to children in third world countries. This has become a year round ministry for Samaritan's Purse.

Brochures and decorative boxes will be available in the sanctuary on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. There is no need to wrap the box. Each box costs \$10 to ship. It is appreciated if you pay this cost. Place the money in the envelope provided with the brochure and place in the box, on the top. Checks can be written to "Samaritan's Purse." Donations will be accepted for the boxes.

A container will be placed by the table at the front door of the sanctuary. Please return boxes to the church by Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. They will be delivered to a collection station during National Collection Week, November 13<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>.



**Begins on Saturday,  
September 23<sup>rd</sup>**



On Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 Noon, there will be a Celebration of Life Service for **Mary Ann Musto**, with a reception to follow the service.

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Here are the Groups that use our church while we are not here:

# SEPTEMBER 2023

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

					<b>1</b> 8-9am—AA 12N—AA 7pm—AA 7pm—NA	<b>2</b> 8-9am—AA 12N—AA
<b>3</b> Food Pantry Sunday 10am - Worship	<b>4</b> 8-9am - AA 12N - AA 6:30pm - AA  <i><u>Labor Day</u></i>	<b>5</b> 8-9am - AA 12N - AA 3pm - Elder/ Deacon Mtg.	<b>6</b> 8-9am - AA 12N - AA	<b>7</b> 8-9am - AA 12N - AA 1pm - GED 7pm - NA	<b>8</b> 8-9am - AA 12N - AA 7pm - AA 7pm - NA	<b>9</b> 8-9am - AA 12N - AA
<b>10</b> 9:15am - SS 10am - Worship <i>Back to Church Sunday</i>	<b>11</b> 8-9am - AA 12N - AA 6:30pm - AA	<b>12</b> 8-9am - AA 12N - AA	<b>13</b> 8-9am - AA 10am - Bible Study 12N - AA	<b>14</b> 8-9am - AA 12N - AA 1pm - GED 7pm - <i>Common Bond Quartet</i> 7pm - NA	<b>15</b> 8-9am - AA 12N - AA 7pm - NA	<b>16</b> 8-9am - AA 12N - AA
<b>17</b> 9:15am - SS 10am - Worship	<b>18</b> 8-9am - AA 12N - AA 6:30pm - AA  Church Office Closed	<b>19</b> 8-9am - AA 12N - AA 6pm - Seed Faith Circle	<b>20</b> 8-9am - AA 10am - Bible Study 12N - AA	<b>21</b> 8-9am - AA 12N - AA 1pm - GED 7pm - NA	<b>22</b> 8-9am - AA 12N - AA 7pm - NA Women's Retreat - Rockwood, PA Church Office Closed	<b>23</b> 8-9am - AA 12N - AA  Women's Retreat - Rockwood, PA thru 24 <sup>th</sup> <i>1<sup>st</sup> Day of Fall</i>
<b>24</b> 9:15am - SS 10am - Worship Celebration Sun. Offering Recovery Ministry 1pm — Worship Athens HC	<b>25</b> 8-9am - AA 12N - AA 6:30pm - AA	<b>26</b> 8-9am - AA 12N - AA	<b>27</b> 8-9am - AA 10am - Bible Study 12N - AA  Church Office Closed	<b>28</b> 8-9am - AA 12N - AA 1pm - GED 7pm - NA  Church Office Closed	<b>29</b> 8-9am - AA 12N - AA 7pm - NA  Church Office Closed	<b>30</b> 8-9am - AA 12N - AA

Sayre Christian Church  
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**THE “CHURCH CANDLE”**  
**SEPTEMBER 2023**



**Is observed on**  
**Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup>.**  
**Have a safe and happy Labor Day.**

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The mission of the Sayre Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is to honor God, share the love of Christ, and change lives ministering grace and peace.

**Like us on Facebook:**  
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